

the development and the fruition of the disease, general paresis, occurring in a man of unusual genius, contributing in some part to his eccentricities, if not to his paradoxical hyperboles, and finally killing him. Nietzsche, to begin with, was not an entirely well man—no one expects a true genius to be absolutely well—the stress of great mental activities precludes the minor cautions of life that ensure average good health. The constitutional migraine from which Nietzsche suffered, and from which, if dispensary and private records are worth much, practically everybody in urban life suffers, was more than the average indisposition of the many—it was a severe trial, and it with other weaknesses gave an impression of a distinctly asymmetrical man-type in Nietzsche. That the general paresis was a pure accident we readily admit. If the teachings of the believers in accidentally acquired syphilis are true, the greater wonder is that more of the great minds of the world do not give out under the added stress of a post-luetic arteriosclerosis. For the small preachers alone the moral aspects of the question are worthy of consideration. It is not certain just when the disease commenced to show itself in Nietzsche's case. It is known that as early as 1888, while at Turin, he had a seizure of a peculiar nature, presumably apoplectiform, but it is not improbable Möbius thinks that the signs of paresis were present before this, but it is a difficult matter to trace them in his writings. So far as heredity is concerned Nietzsche's father died young, thirty-three, probably of a brain tumor—there was some insanity in the mother's family, but Möbius would not dwell upon these facts as anything more than of passing moment. In "thus spake Zarathustra." Möbius would see the more distinct beginnings of mental breakdown. From this on, 1886, to his death in 1900, the progress was slow but distinct. The disease certainly persisted eleven years in Nietzsche's case, if not more. The physical stigmata were distinctly visible when he was treated at the Baale clinic in 1890, ten years before his death. We would refer our readers to the original of this highly instructive biographical sketch, and congratulate the author on his sympathetic and thorough treatment of a difficult matter.

JELIFFE.

MENTAL DEFECTIVES, THEIR HISTORY, TREATMENT AND TRAINING. By MARTIN W. BARR, M.D. Philadelphia, P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1904. P. 337. Price, \$4.00 net.

The author of this work, who is chief physician of the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children, at Elwyn, states in his Foreword that it is "The result of an experience of almost twenty years in carrying forward principles of treatment and of training, tested, proven and defined—it addresses itself primarily to anxious parents and to earnest teachers, rather than to the scientist." For the purposes here set forth the work is most admirably adapted. It is quite free from anything that savors of pedantry, setting forth the various aspects of the subject in a clear and comprehensive way and in simple language easy to understand. On the other hand, the results of twenty years of work among the feeble minded with various methods of treatment, manual training, etc., and the careful statistical studies of hundreds of cases bearing on questions of etiology, cannot fail to interest the expert. Following a most interesting chapter, dealing with the history of the subject in hand, the author takes up the subject of classification. The classification suggested is intended to be primarily practical, and is based solely upon the educational possibilities of the different degrees of defect, which are broadly designated by the terms, "idiot," "idio-imbecile," "moral imbecile," "imbecile," and "backward" or "mentally feeble." Each of these classes is then further subdivided in accordance with their capacity for training. The subject of etiology is discussed at length. The chapter is one of the most important in the book. Great stress is laid upon abnormal conditions of the mother during

gestation, especially such conditions as result in exhausted vitality. Now that the great war in the East is engaging so much attention it is interesting to speculate on some of its remote results in the light of the information furnished by a French military surgeon in reference to the siege of Landau in 1793, "of the ninety-two children born within a few months, of mothers exposed to the terrors of cannonading and the blowing up of the arsenal—sixteen died at birth, eight were idiotic, and died before they attained the age of five years; thirty-three, more or less defective, died within ten months, and two were born with fractured limbs." The chapter devoted to training is well written and readable. Educational methods should not be begun before the seventh year, and the period of receptivity closes on the average at the sixteenth. Special stress is laid on the utter hopelessness of cure. All that can be done is to awaken dormant faculties, making the most of what exists; new powers cannot be created by education—"that which the cradle rocks the spade will cover." In the chapter on echolalia a most interesting case is reported, with the general conclusion that the symptoms indicate that echolalia is in reality a transcortical motor aphasia. The work is profusely illustrated by photographs, illustrating the different types of feeble mindedness, and accompanying each is a short clinical history. Many interesting cases are cited, and the last chapter is a collection of instructive writings and anecdotes.

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